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UNCLAS COLOMBO 001605

SIPDIS

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COMMERCE FOR ITA/OTEXA/MD'Andrea

E.O 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TRACKING CHANGES IN TEXTILE AND APPAREL
EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION AFTER QUOTA ELIMINATION,
MALDIVES

Ref: 184238

1. Per reftel, information for Maldives follows:

Year	2002	2003
Total industrial production in USD MN	52	53
Total textile and apparel		
Production in USD MN	34	36
Textiles and apparel's share of		
Maldives imports	12%	11%
Textiles and apparel's share of		
Maldives Exports	38%	32%
Total manufacturing employment	13,648(a)	NA
Total textiles employment	0	0
Total apparel employment	NA	NA

(a) Manufacturing employment according to 2000 census
nt according to 2000 census
data and expatriate employment data.

2. Maldives has a small apparel industry, with exports of about \$36 million, or about 32 percent of exports in 2003. There is no textile industry. Apparel exports are all quota based, and most workers are foreigners. The apparel industry is expected to disappear with the demise of the Multi-Fiber Arrangement in 2005. Exports will decline as a result, as most investment, workers and materials used in the industry come from abroad. Supporting businesses - nearby shops, food and goods suppliers, transport providers will suffer job losses, estimated at about 200. The main effect is predicted to be a loss of government revenues from land rental.
Lunstead